entrance of the Tirusoolam Railway Station parking lot. Thereafter the same level will be continued till it crosses the NH 45 at a point 20m away from Km. 17/6. The proposed lane crossing with NH 45 will have to be done by means of an underpass-subway.

The full details of the scheme are being worked out by the National Highway Department of the Tamil Nadu Government, since the State Public Works Department is, as per the present programme, to take up the scheme, involving as it does construction of road network and subway in the land owned by Railways, State Government and IAAI; IAAI may finance the construction cost of its part.

The estimated cost of the scheme is at present placed at Rs. 1 crore, as intimated by the National Highway Department of State Government.

Cancellation of trains on the eve of Bengal Bandh

37. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of trains which were cancelled on the eve of Bengal Bandh on the 14th September, 1988; and

(b) what is the estimated financial loss suffered by Railways as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) 468 number of Passenger trains and 1453 suburban trains were cancelled as a result of Bengal Bandh on 14th September, 1988.

(b) Train-wise statistics of earnings and loss are not maintained.

Foster parent scheme for girls' education in the country

38. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce foster parent scheme for girls' education in the country, on the pattern of Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) and (b) Since school education is looked after primarily by the State Governments, it is for them to initiate and implement such a scheme. The Government of India feels it is a good, innovative scheme for promoting girls' education. It has accordingly been commended to states in June, 1984 and March, 1988 for implementation.

Drop-outs in schools

39. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of children in the country in the age group of 6—11 years who are (i) studying in schools; (ii) not studying in schools as on 31st October, 1988;

(b) what is the number of drop-outs; and

(c) what steps have been taken so far to bring more children to schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) According to the projected population estimates based on 1981 census, the number of school going children in the age group 6—11 years (as on 1.3.1987) was 93784 lakhs. Against this the number of school going children at primary stage (classes I-V, as on 30.9.86) was 899.93 lakhs.

(b) The latest data available about drop-out at primary stage (Classes I-V) pertaining to the year 1983-84 indicates that the drop out at that stage was 50.26 per cent.